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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

AT RICHMOND, JULY 13, 2001

JOINT REQUEST OF

THE VIRGINIA COOPERATIVES

CASE NO. PUE010367

For additional time to comply with
the Rules Governing Retail Access
to Competitive Energy Services

ORDER PERMITTING RESPONSES TO REQUEST

On June 19, 2001, the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") entered an order in Case No. PUE010013 adopting Rules Governing Retail Access to Competitive Energy Services ("Retail Access Rules"), 20 VAC 5-312-10 et seq., effective August 1, 2001, to be applicable to the implementation of full or phased-in retail access to competitive energy services in the service territory of each local distribution company.

In adopting the Retail Access Rules, the Commission noted that some parties may require additional time to comply with certain provisions. We therefore directed any parties needing additional time to comply with certain of the Retail Access Rules to submit requests in writing to the Commission on or before July 9, 2001. Each request was required to: (1) identify each rule for which additional time is needed to comply, and the

reasons for such request; and (2) state how much additional time is desired to comply with the specified rules.

On July 9, 2001, A&N Electric Cooperative, BARC Electric Cooperative, Central Virginia Electric Cooperative, Community Electric Cooperative, Craig-Botetourt Electric Cooperative, Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative, Northern Neck Electric Cooperative, Inc., Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative, Inc., Powell Valley Electric Cooperative, Prince George Electric Cooperative, Rappahannock Electric Cooperative, Shenandoah Electric Cooperative, Southside Electric Cooperative, Inc., and the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives (collectively, the "Cooperatives") filed a joint request for additional time within which the Cooperatives must comply with certain of the Retail Access Rules.

Noting that for the Cooperatives the start of retail access in Virginia could be as early as January 2002 or as late as January 2004, the Cooperatives also request clarification on when they are required to be in compliance with the Retail Access Rules in order to determine the amount of additional time that may be required. Most rules are silent as to when implementation is required. This has left the Cooperatives uncertain as to whether compliance with these other rules is to be achieved by the start of retail access in Virginia (tentatively set for January 1, 2002), the start of retail

access in a given incumbent electric utility's service territory (various dates), or the August 1, 2001, effective date of the rules.

If the Commission's intent is that compliance is required either August 1, 2001, or January 1, 2002, then the Cooperatives propose that they be granted a general extension of additional time to comply with the Retail Access Rules to extend until 30 days prior to the implementation of retail access in each Cooperative's service territory. The Cooperatives state that they would need such additional time to comply with many of the general provisions of 20 VAC 5-312-20, including the development of tariffs for default service required by 20 VAC 5-312-20 E, adherence to standard practices for exchanging data and information in an electronic media required by 20 VAC 5-312-20 K and L, and meeting the reporting requirements of 20 VAC 5-312-20 N, O and P. The Cooperatives further state that it requires an extension to comply with the requirements of registering competitive service providers and enrolling and switching customers found in 20 VAC 5-312-50 and 20 VAC 5-312-80. The billing and payment provisions of 20 VAC 5-312-90 will require a new billing system the Cooperatives argue, and the Cooperatives will not be prepared to make certain information available under 20 VAC 5-312-100 B, E, H, and I by the effective date.

The Cooperatives also request an extension of time to comply with Ordering Paragraph (4) of the Commission's June 19, 2001, Order in Case No. PUE010013 which requires local distribution companies to file revised tariffs incorporating changes required by the Retail Access Rules. For those Cooperatives not operating under a waiver of the requirement to file revised rates and terms and conditions of service in their respective functional separation proceedings, the Cooperatives request until at least November 1, 2001, to file tariffs.

NOW UPON CONSIDERATION of the request, we find that this matter should be docketed and that interested parties and Staff should have the opportunity to respond to the Cooperatives' request. We also find that the Cooperatives should be permitted to respond to any comments filed in response to its request.

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

(1) This matter shall be docketed as Case No. PUE010367.

(2) The Cooperatives shall promptly make a copy of their request available at no charge. Copies of the request may be obtained by contacting counsel for the Cooperatives, John A. Pirko, Esquire, LeClair Ryan, 4201 Dominion Boulevard, Suite 200, Richmond, Virginia 23060. The request may also be reviewed during regular business hours at the Commission's Document Control Center, First Floor, Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia.

(3) On or before July 27, 2001, interested parties and Staff may file responses to the Cooperatives' request with Joel H. Peck, Clerk of the Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218. A copy of a response shall be simultaneously served on counsel for the Company at the address set forth above and on Commission Staff.

(4) On or before August 6, 2001, the Cooperatives may reply to any comments filed by interested parties and Commission Staff with the Clerk of the Commission at the address set forth above. A copy of a reply shall be simultaneously served on the interested party and on Commission Staff.

(5) This matter is continued for further orders of the Commission.